

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

It's pretty apparent that if Sinclair is willing to pre-empt regular programming to air a negative piece on John Kerry 2 weeks before the election, they are surely supporting George Bush. A news organization such as Sinclair has a duty to show both sides of an issue. They should also pre-empt regular programming before the general election to show a negative piece on George Bush.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.